8:Schaefer A-5 (1900-1901) 1904
MR13 Fellahin MR13
Upper Egypt

47.

Sympathy.

×599 35 [537] In a gentleman's garden strange workmen are busied. In the centre of the garden is a fountain, and the ḥarim (harem), in which the ladies sit, is close to the garden. Evening is approaching.

Ḍill il-ʿaṣāri mâl ʿal-fasʾīye
u-ramaš baʿēno: waʾʾaf el-gamʿīye!
Ya-l-arbaʿīn, yalli ʿala-l-ʾullīye,
mōt cl-ɣarīb fil-bilād ḥaṭīye.
Ya ʿišt-ana! ʿal-ɣarīb, yaḫwāti,
abki beḥurʾa wed-demūʿ teraši.

"The afternoon shadow inclines toward the fountain [461]
And says with its eye: 'Let the laborers cease!'
O, ye forty ladies, who sit in your chamber,
The death of a stranger in the land is a sin." [609]
"Oh, how sad am I! For the stranger, O, my sisters, [673]
I bitterly weep and my tears flow!"

1—4. One of the laborers speaks: "Do not let us be tormented to death! You, too, would have to answer for this sin". Forty is frequently used as a round number. Compare [801] the beginning of the story of the "Ours de cuisine" in Spitta's Contes arabes modernes (p. 12).

5—6. Are the words of a lady to the others. The translation "flow" is Maḥmūds.